has allotted upto 31.12.1987, 5365 centres conforming to the norms laid down in the current Branch Licensing Policy to commercial banks and regional rural banks. Out of these 5365 centres, banks have opened 1292 branches in different States of the country upto 31.12.1987. RBI has advised the banks that branches at the allotted centres should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Policy. Annual targets for openig branches have not been prescribed. As such, it would not be possible at this stage to indicate the number of new branches that will be opened by banks during 1988-89 in different States.

Income-tax raids

798. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income-tax Department has conducted raids during the last six months and found undisclosed wealth in different States;

(b) if so, what is the amount of wealth found from the raids during the last six months; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the persons evading income-tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income-tax Department conducted 4446 searches in various parts of the country from August, 1987 to January, 1988. These searches resulted in the seizure of *prima facie* unaccounted assets to the tune of Rs. 69.71 crores.

(c) Appropriate action under the Direct Taxes Acts is taken in all these cases.

Setting up of a National Housing Bank

799. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up a National Housing Bank to improve availability of housing finance;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Housing Bank is being set up under National Housing Bank Act, 1987 as an apex level housing finance institution with an initial capital of Rs. 100 crores to be fully subscribed by the Reserve Bank of India. It would promote and develop specialised housing finance institutions both at regional and local levels. It will regulate working of housing finance institutions and coordinate their activities as also of other agencies in housing. The extension of financial support to housing finance intermediaries will also be one of the functions of the Bank.

(c) Preparatory work for establishing the National Housing Bank has already been initiated.

Seizure of Narcotics

800. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated value of the narcotics seized at various

places in the country during the year 1987 and what is the percentage of rise in their smuggling into the country as compared to seizure of narcotics during the previous year;

(b) whether in view of the continuous rise in the smuggling of narcotics into the country Government have made any critical review of the working of the various measures taken by Government and the Act in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the deficiencies, if any, identified by Government and the manner in which these are proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No precise value of the drugs seized can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like quality of the drugs, place of origin, etc. It is difficult to quantify the extent of smuggling or the percentage thereof. However, from the following Table, it would be observed that while there is slightly an upward trend of smuggling in respect of heroin, the other drugs have shown a declining trend:

S. No.	Name of durg	Quantity sized in 1986	Quantity sized in 1987 (provisional)
		Kgs.	Kgs.
1	Heroin	2,621	2,780
2	Hashish (Charas)	18,909	14,792
3	Ganja	60,620	53.307
4	Opium	8.789	2,859
5	Morphine	207	90*
			70/ injections

(b) and (c) Government have, from time to time, been launching various aggressive counter-measures to curb drug smuggling. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action. No deficiencies, as such, have been noticed in the working of these measures. However, whenever and whatever any deficiency is noticed the same will be set right.

Income tax refund cases held up in Kanpur and Lucknow

801. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioners of Income-tax in Kanpur and Lucknow have held up refund cases of diffierent assessees including some companies located in the above named town for years together;

(b) whether in some case the Department has lost before the Income Tax Tribunal and no appeals are pending before the High Court;

(c) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(d) what further action is being proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The Commissioners of Income-tax, Kanpur (Central) and Lucknow have reported that no refund has been held up for years together in any case assessed in their jurisdiction.